



## **Naval Station Ingleside**

**November 14, 2005  
41/05**

**For Immediate Release**

### **MWTC Command Master Chief retires from U.S. Navy**

Command Master Chief (Surface Warfare/Fleet Marine Force) David E. Watson retired from the U.S. Navy on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, in traditional ceremonies conducted aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay.

Watson, a native of Morgantown, W.V., enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August 1971.

Upon completion of Basic Training at Recruit Training Center, San Diego and Hospital Corps School, San Diego, he reported to First Marine Division during Operations "Eagle Pull" and "Friendly Hands," during Vietnam.

In 1977, he transferred to USS Fort Fisher (LSD 40) as the Independent Duty Corpsman in San Diego, Calif. In 1979, Watson reported to Third Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan. In 1985, he reported to Instructor Surface Force Independent Duty School in Portsmouth, Va., as the Curriculum Developer, for two years. Following that assignment, Watson transferred to USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), homeported in Norfolk, and served as the Independent Duty Corpsman. During this tour, he assisted in the rescue and medical treatment of personnel stationed on board a Turkish destroyer that was struck by a Naval missile and with the medical treatment of personnel aboard the USS Stark, struck by an Iranian missile.

In 1990, Watson transferred to COMPHIBRON 10 in Norfolk, before moving on to COMNAVSURFGRU in Little Creek, Va. In 1994, Watson reported to COMPHIBGRU TWO, as part of Engineering Training Team and served as the Medical Program Manager.

In 1996, Watson became Master Chief of the Second Surveillance Reconnaissance Intelligence Group. He then reported as Command Master Chief of Field



Medical Service School in 1998. In 2000, he became Command Master Chief of Second Marine Division.

In August 2004, Command Master Chief Watson reported to Mine Warfare Training Center and ultimately finished up his 34 years of Naval service at this command.

Mine Warfare Training Center is the Navy's single instructional site for mine warfare under the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS). As Command Master Chief, Watson was the Senior Enlisted Advisor for 90 staff members and more than 150 students. Watson was responsible for ensuring the personal and professional development of all Sailors under his command.

Command Master Chief Watson's personal awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy Commendation Medal with gold star, and Navy Achievement Medal with two gold stars. Command Master Chief Watson has received commendations from both Navy Admirals and Marine Corps Generals due to the unparalleled dedication he has shown his Sailors and Marines throughout his 34 year career. Part of the Hospital Corpsman pledge states, "I dedicate my heart, mind and strength to the work before me. I shall do all within my powers to show myself an example of all that is honorable and good throughout my Naval career." No one has epitomized this statement more than Command Master Chief David E. Watson. His service has spanned the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon retirement, Watson and his wife, Sandra, of Brownsville, Texas, plan to remain in Woodsboro, Texas. His future plans include working for the United States Navy as a civilian contractor, in order that he may continue his dedicated service to this country. Watson has two children: Joshua, also a hospital corpsman who has served three tours in Iraq, and Jason, a college student in Virginia.